

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072601  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 CPR-01 OC-06  
CCO-00 /107 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON:JY  
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY  
L/M:HSHAMWELL  
EA/VLC:FZBROWN

-----076316 212319Z /63

P R 212055Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072601

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: PROTEST OF LPDR CLOSURE OF MEKONG RIVER CROSSINGS

REF: VIENTIANE 363

1. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO PROTEST TO LAO AUTHORITIES,  
EITHER BILATERALLY OR AS PART OF EFFORT COORDINATED WITH  
OTHER EMBASSIES OR DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ABOUT NEW  
TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DESCRIBED REFTEL. DEPARTMENT AGREES  
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THAT NEW RESTRICTIONS ARE IN CONFLICT WITH ARTICLE 26 OF  
VIENNA CONVENTION AS WELL AS ARTICLES 25 AND 27.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT THE VIENNA CONVENTION IMPOSES  
UPON THE RECEIVING COUNTRY A STRICT OBLIGATION TO ENSURE  
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN ITS TERRITORY FOR MEMBERS OF A  
DIPLOMATIC MISSION. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE,

PHRASED IN CLOSELY-DRAWN LANGUAGE, RELATED TO ZONES ENTRY INTO WHICH IS PROHIBITED OR REGULATED FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY. IN THE INSTANT CASE, NO NATIONAL SECURITY REASON WHATSOEVER HAS BEEN CITED AS THE REASON FOR THE BURDENSOME PROCEDURES PROPOSED TO BE APPLIED TO DIPLOMATS. THUS, THE NEW RESTRICTIONS LACK LEGITIMACY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AMOUNT TO UNREASONABLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DIPLOMATS. SUCH TREATMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAMPER TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT THE CAPABILITY OF U.S. DIPLOMATS AND THE U.S. MISSION TO CARRY OUT ITS LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, NORMAL POUCH FACILITIES WILL BE INTERFERED WITH, CAUSING A NECESSARY REROUTING OF OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND CONSEQUENT DELAYS. SUCH INTERFERENCE BY THE LPDR PLACES IT IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 27 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, WHICH OBLIGES THE RECEIVING STATE TO PERMIT AND PROTECT FREE COMMUNICATION FOR ALL OFFICIAL PURPOSES.

3. PLACING LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL TRAVEL OF DIPLOMATS ALSO INHIBITS THE DIPLOMAT IN CARRYING OUT MANY OF THE FUNCTIONS LISTED IN ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION, IN PARTICULAR, PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF SENDING STATE NATIONALS AND ASCERTAINING CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RECEIVING STATE. THE LPDR WOULD THUS BE VIOLATING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 25 OF THE CONVENTION TO ACCORD FULL FACILITIES FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS

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OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION OF THE SENDING STATE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, TRAVEL CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 21 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE072601  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JRJOHNSON:JY  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780125-0215  
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**Message ID:** 382561c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 VIENTIANE 363  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3251640  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROTEST OF LPDR CLOSURE OF MEKONG RIVER CROSSINGS  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PBOR, LA, US  
**To:** VIENTIANE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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